

By-Laws of the New River Rifles, Inc.

Amended and Updated: May 5, 2022

Article I: Membership

1. Membership in the unit shall be offered to any U.S. citizen, resident, or alien who is at least 16 years of age and of good moral character and who has not belonged to any group or organization that advocates the overthrow of the U.S. Government or any State Government.
2. No person shall be banned from membership based on race, religion, color, sex or national origin. You must be 16 years or older to become a member. No exceptions.
3. Any person applying for membership will complete and sign a membership application and submit it to a Board of Director/Corporate Officer.
4. A person will be voted into the unit by a majority favorable vote once all minimum requirements have been met and a background check has been completed.
5. **In-active members:**
 - A. Any member who has a serious medical condition and cannot meet the minimum attendance requirements shall maintain voting rights but must also maintain yearly dues payments.
 - B. Any member who has an active or reserve obligation to the United States Military shall maintain voting rights but must still maintain yearly dues payments.
 - C. Any member who is attending a University, Community College, Secondary Education, etc. and cannot meet attendance requirements shall maintain voting rights but must also maintain yearly dues.
 - D. Any member who has not attended the minimum of any 2 unit events or has not paid their yearly dues.
6. **Lifetime membership:**
 - A. Any member voted to this status by the majority favorable vote of the membership in good standing. A lifetime member shall forever be exempt from annual dues and participation requirements. A lifetime member shall retain all privileges and voting rights of a member in good standing.
7. **Removal from membership:**
 - A. Any member who has not attended the minimum of any 2 unit events or has not paid the yearly dues payment after one (1) year shall be removed from the membership rolls of the unit.
 - B. Exceptions can be made and reviewed by the Board of Directors/Corporate Officers on a case-by-case basis by a request in writing or by email by the member affected within 30 days of removal.

Article II: Compensation

1. Any member may be reimbursed for authorized expenses paid on behalf of the Unit upon the presentation of a receipt. Prior approval is required from the Board of Directors/Corporate Officers.

Article III: Meetings

1. A majority of members from the general membership or the Board of Directors/Corporate Officers shall constitute a quorum.
2. The Annual unit meeting shall be held the first Saturday in February. The 2nd Saturday in February will be the alternate date.
3. Board of Directors/Corporate Officers meetings will be held quarterly. Dates to be determined by the Board of Directors/Corporate Officers.

Article IV: Board of Directors/Corporate Officers

1. President

- A. Shall be the chief Officer of the corporation
- B. Shall preside at all Corporate meetings
- C. Shall prepare the agenda for each meeting
- D. Shall have the power to call or cancel any meeting
- E. Shall appoint the chairperson to any committees that might be made
- F. Shall appoint all committee members
- G. Shall have the deciding vote to break any tie in matters of Corporate business

2. Vice President

- A. Shall act in the capacity of the president during his absence, or at his request or resignation.
- B. Shall assist on any and all committees, in a non-voting capacity and shall be directly responsible to the president concerning these committees
- C. Shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the president

3. Secretary

- A. Shall keep accurate records of all meetings
- B. Shall notify all members of any non-scheduled meetings
- C. Shall notify all members of the results of any election, event or function
- D. Shall distribute an updated muster roll of all members annually
- E. Shall keep accurate and authentic records of the membership and corporation, excluding financial records
- F. Shall supply each new member with a copy of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations and By-Laws

4. Treasurer

- A. Shall keep an accurate, updated and authentic record of all financial transactions of the corporation
- B. Shall prepare an annual report to be turned in to the president one week before the annual business meeting
- C. Shall make compensation for members making authorized expenses

5. Quartermaster

- A. Shall maintain and store all unit/Corporate equipment
- B. Shall keep an accurate and authentic record of all unit/Corporate equipment/property
- C. Will provide a written report of all inventory to the Board of Directors/Corporate Officers seven (7) days before the Annual meeting or upon request during the year
- D. Shall provide any and all information concerning events

6. Board of Directors/Corporate Officers

- A. Shall have the authority to extend the deadline for payment of yearly dues
- B. Shall have the authority to waive dues
- C. Shall have the power and authority to appoint Officers to fill the unexpired term of any Officer or field Officer that may become vacant

Article V: Voting Eligibility

1. Active member

- A. A person who is in good standing, has attended and participated in the minimum of two field events in the past year and is current on yearly dues

2. Member in Good Standing

- A. A person who has met the minimum attendance/participation requirements, has no outstanding dues and no pending disciplinary action from the Board of Directors/Corporate Officers
- B. A person who is 16 years of age or older with parental written consent. No exceptions.

Article VI: Elections

- 1. Nominations and voting for Board of Directors/Corporate Officers and field Officers must take place at the regular annual business meeting.
- 2. Voting for events shall also take place at the regular annual business meeting unless time restraints require action prior to the regular annual business meeting.
- 3. All members in good standing shall be eligible to cast a vote.
- 4. Voting shall be by secret ballot or by e-mail if circumstances so demand.
- 5. All Board of Directors/Corporate Officers and field Officers shall be one year terms and must be voted upon annually. There shall be no term limits required.
- 6. Upon removal from office by election, resignation or expulsion that Officer shall turn over all property and records of the unit in their possession to the successor.

Article VII: Dues

- 1. Dues shall be established by the Board of Directors/Corporate Officers and ratified by the membership. Dues shall only be used to pay for administrative costs, quartermaster defrayment costs, equipment purchases or any other costs deemed necessary by the membership or the Board of Directors/Corporate Officers.
- 2. No member shall be considered in good standing if their dues are not current and/or they have not met the minimum attendance/participation requirements.

Article VIII: Rules and Regulations

1. The Rules, Regulations and Constitution of the New River Rifles, Inc. shall be adopted by the membership and shall be incorporated into these By-Laws. All members are required to abide by these rules, regulations, constitution and bylaws.
2. The unit shall not be held responsible for any member's personal items, goods or equipment left in the unit trailer.
3. Personal items that are stored in the unit trailer can be used by the unit.

Article IX: Suspension and Expulsion

1. Any Board of Director/Corporate Officer or field Officer may be removed from office by a majority vote of the members in good standing. This vote may occur at any regular meeting or special meeting.
2. Any member may be suspended or expelled by a majority vote of the members in good standing. This vote may occur at any regular meeting or special meeting.
3. **Grounds for dismissal:**
 - A. Disrespectful or abusive conduct toward the general public, civilians, fellow reenactors or Officers
 - B. Issuance of slanderous statements or verbal attacks against any unit member
 - C. Illegal drug use or disorderly conduct/drunkenness will not be tolerated at any time.
 - D. Persistent verbal or physical conduct of an offensive nature that disrupts any unit meeting, unit event or function.
 - E. Making a false statement in regards to any felony convictions
 - F. Misuse or unauthorized use of unit property/equipment
 - G. Misuse or unauthorized use of unit funds
 - H. Failure to pay, upon verbal and/or written demand, any financial Obligations to the unit
4. **Procedures**
 - A. The accuser (any member in good standing) shall submit in writing the charge or charges and specifications thereof and any written supporting affidavits or other such evidence deemed necessary to the secretary.
 - B. The secretary shall then present all writings, evidence, etc. to the Board of Directors/Corporate Officers for review.
 - C. The Board of Directors/Corporate Officers shall vote to either prefer or to dismiss the charge or charges.
 - D. If the charge or charges are preferred, the Board of Directors/Corporate Officers shall appoint one of its Officers to prosecute the case before the membership who are in good standing at a regular or special meeting. No vote shall be held until 30 days' notice has been given to the accused and the accused has been given a full and impartial hearing before the membership in good standing.
 - E. **Notice to accused shall include:**
 - A statement of the charge or charges being considered that include the date, time and place of occurrence
 - The statement shall be short and plain with all available facts and statement of evidence that will be used in the hearing
 - Notification of the date, time and place of where the hearing will take place before the membership in good standing so that he/she may respond and present all evidence and witnesses on his/her behalf
 - F. Upon completion of the hearing, a majority vote of the membership in good standing shall take place. The vote may be by a show of hands or secret ballot.
 - G. If the accused refuses to show and/or answer to the charge or charges at the date, time and place specified for the hearing without good cause, a hearing shall be held in his/her absence and a majority vote shall still be held.